





# **BVA policy position on UK sustainable finfish aquaculture – Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1: Sustainable aquaculture should be undertaken in a way that is environmentally, ethically, and economically acceptable for consumers, producers, and wider society.**

**Recommendation 2 BVA should monitor any new research or evidence of new and emerging aquaculture systems in the UK, and consider developing additional positions on sustainable aquaculture for those species as appropriate**

**Animal health and welfare as a key sustainability objective**

**Recommendation 3 Animal health and welfare should not be unnecessarily compromised to address human need. Aquaculture systems must work towards the positive health and we**

**Recommendation 15** The UK Governments should provide specific legislative protections for the welfare of farmed finfish, including at slaughter. The UK Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing regulations should include the stunning of farmed fish (including detailed requirements of key parameters), alongside general welfare protections at slaughter:



**Recommendation 41:** New technologies and innovative models used to improve the contribution of animals, be that in terms of the production of food, animal feed or environmental goods, must not compromise the welfare needs of the animals in question

**Recommendation 42:** Members of the veterinary profession should educate themselves on new technologies to enable them to play a role in communicating them to the public, correcting misunderstandings and highlighting any risks.

**Recommendation 43:** Further consideration should be given to how breeding and genetics can be used in an ethically responsible way to improve animal health and welfare within sustainable aquaculture

**Recommendation 44:** BVA should highlight the benefits and risks of gene editing for animal welfare, to support evidence-based decisions over its potential future use

**Recommendation 45:** Rigorous research should be undertaken to assess the safety of any new technologies which may benefit fish health and welfare or sustainable production

### **Consumers and sustainable consumption of animal-derived products**

**Recommendation 46:** The aquaculture sector needs to improve communication with the public to dispel common misconceptions, and engage with stakeholders